

BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR NUCLEAR (SOUTH)



LOCATION: CANNINGTON
CLIENT: BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
COMPLETION: 2018
VALUE: £10.5M
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIORS, LANDSCAPE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: MIDAS CONSTRUCTION LTD
STRUCTURES: ATKINS
SERVICES: ATKINS
COST CONSULTANT: HILLS
AWARDS: 2019 LABC BUILDING EXCELLENCE SW AWARD, BEST EDUCATIONAL BUILDING 2019 SOMERSET BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP AWARD, BEST EDUCATIONAL BUILDING 2018 MICHELMORES PROPERTY AWARD, PROJECT OF THE YEAR (OVER £5M) 2018 SOUTH WEST BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARD, DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT/INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

Austin-Smith:Lord assisted Bridgwater College in its bid to Government for selection for the Southern Hub of the National College for Nuclear by providing a masterplan for its Cannington campus which included the proposed NCFN teaching centre, a Welfare and Recreation Centre, 100-bed student residence and a Food Innovation Centre. The College's bid was successful and ASL were appointed to undertake the design and delivery of the flagship NCFN Southern Hub.

The new £10.5m BREEAM excellent rated facility revolutionises the way in which higher level professional and technical training for the nuclear sector is delivered, utilising innovative technology and virtual reality simulators to replicate a nuclear working environment, whether in nuclear new build/operation/decommissioning, defence or medicine. NCFN will help plug the skills gap that exists in the nuclear industry and will further support the UK's growing nuclear power infrastructure, closely linked to the new nuclear power station at Hinkley point.



The functions of the buildings are expressed through their distinct forms. Teaching facilities are located in the east wing, wrapped in natural copper cladding and distinguished by a sloped southern facade. The welfare and recreation facilities are located in the west wing, characterised by standing seam zinc cladding, with form expressed through a cantilever at first floor. The buildings are connected to each other by an umbilical glazed link, providing views of the rolling hills to the south and mature woodland to the north.

Working with a sloping site, the building projects prominently from its elevated position, establishing a 'civic' presence at the crest of the campus, whilst also responding to existing

buildings and the idyllic setting.

A new courtyard is created between the buildings within which sits a sculptural landscape. The south facing courtyard will become a focal part of campus activity whilst additionally resolving site access and parking through incorporation of an accessible footpath towards cycle storage, car parking and bus drop off points to the north of the building.

The building comprises approximately 2800m² gross internal floor area arranged over 2 storeys and a basement level. The teaching building accommodation includes virtual reality suites, simulation control rooms, changing rooms, training spaces, board rooms

and staff spaces. A double height large flexible workshop is located at the corner of the building, complete with access crane in order replicate a nuclear working environment. A large glazed sloped facade serves to animate workshop activity and display this to the campus.

The welfare and recreation building accommodation includes a gymnasium, learning resource centre and social study space with bar/servery for entertaining campus students and evening visitors alike. Drama to the form is created via large glazed corner windows, drawing in the beauty of the Quantock Hills to the south and connecting the building to its natural setting.